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(52) Domestic classification (Edition I)
A6S 1B 1F3

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US 4170086

(58) Field of search
A6S
G5C
Selected US specifications from IPC sub-class A63H

(54) A cuddly toy, e.g. teddy bear

(57) Marks (4) in the form of alphabetic letters are applied to the pile (2) on the surface (1) of a cuddly toy so as to be discernible when the pile (2) is brushed or combed into a groomed condition in which adjacent strands (3) extend along the surface (1) in the same direction, but indiscernible when the pile (2) is not in its groomed condition. Exposing the alphabetic letter marks (4) adds to the pleasure of grooming. The marks (4) may be applied to the pile (2) when the pile is in the groomed condition, e.g. by applying a liquid from an aperture in a stencil.

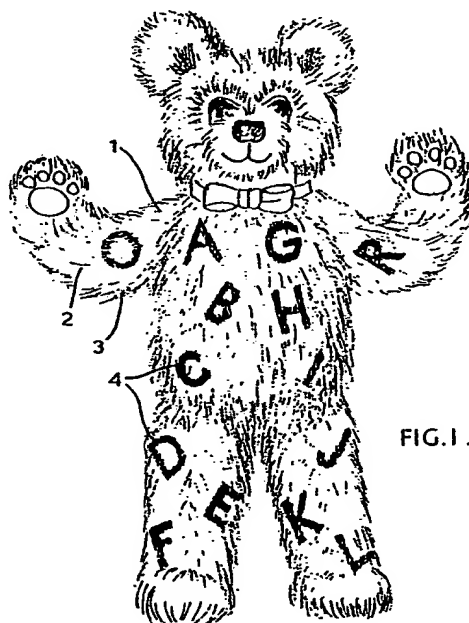


FIG. 1.

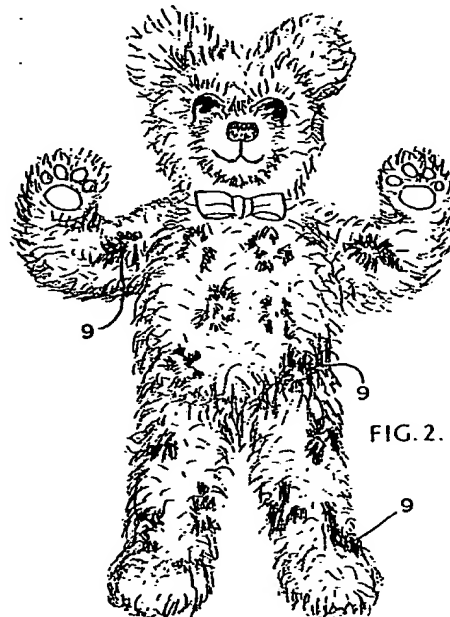


FIG. 2.

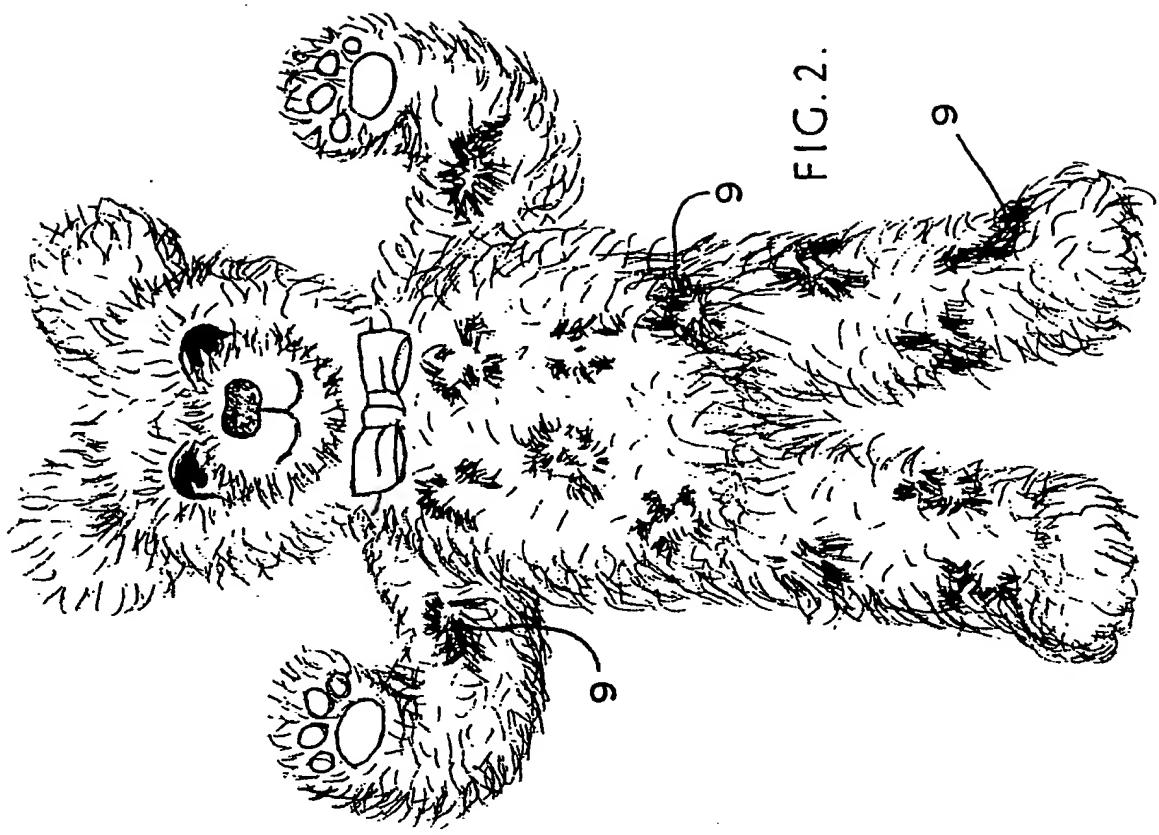


FIG. 2.

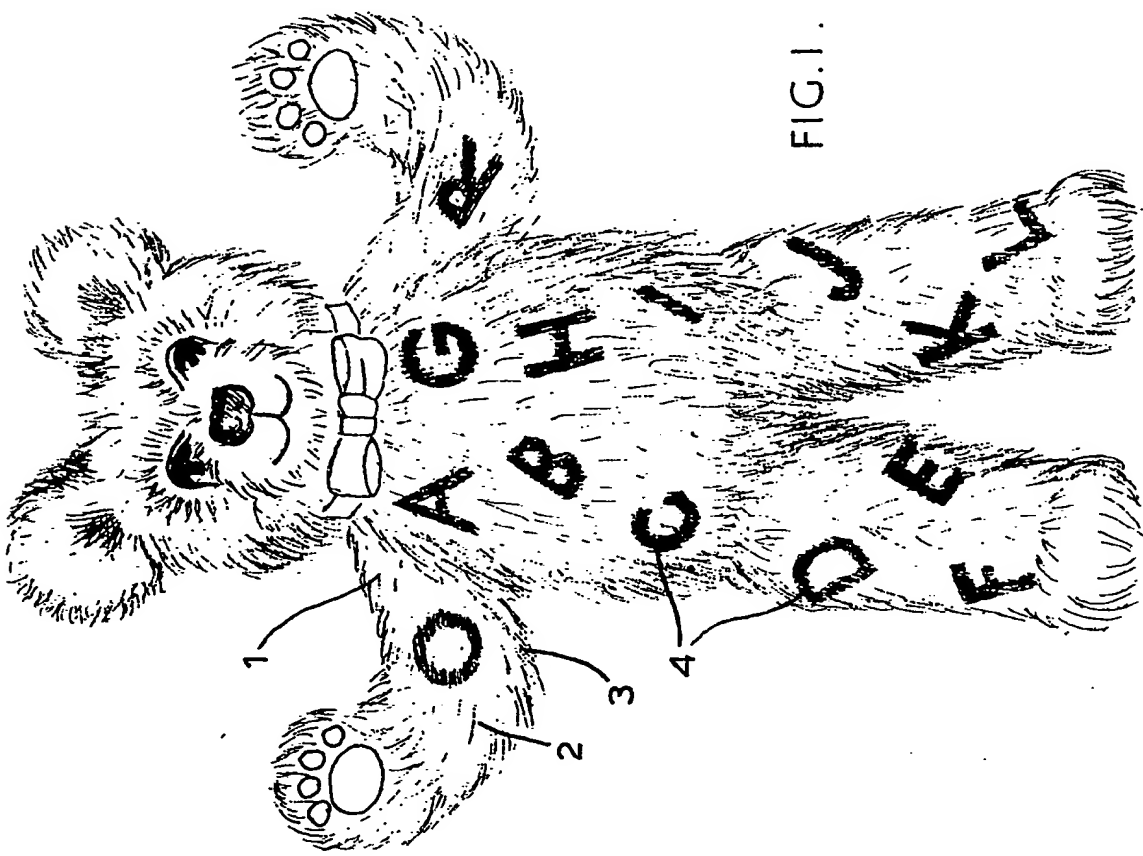


FIG. 1.

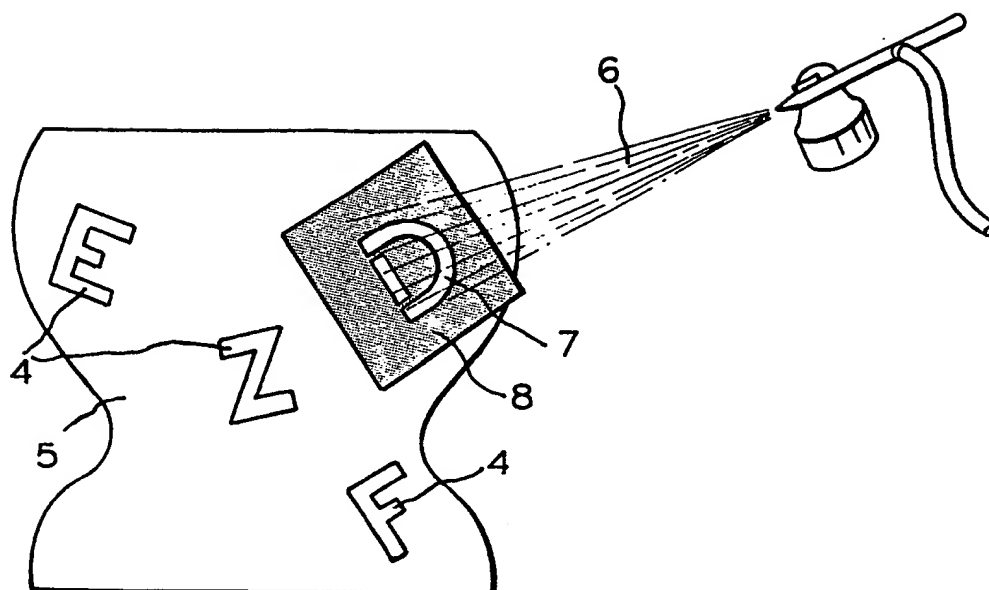


FIG. 3.

SPECIFICATION

A cuddly toy

5 *Field of the invention*

The invention relates to a cuddly toy and, in particular, to a cuddly toy having a pile which can be groomed, for example, by brushing or combing.

10 *Background art*

It is known to provide a cuddly toy having, on at least part of its surface, a pile which comprises filamentary strands and can be brushed or combed into and out of a groomed condition in which adjacent strands extend along the surface in the same direction.

Cuddly toys such as this are quite popular and children enjoy grooming the pile of such toys. However, grooming is an end in itself and eventually children tire of this pleasure.

Disclosure of the invention

It is the purpose of the present invention to provide a cuddly toy having a pile on its surface in which means are provided to enhance the pleasure of grooming the pile.

This is achieved by applying at least one symbolic or pictorial mark to the pile in such a way that the mark is discernible when the pile is in its groomed condition and indiscernible when the pile is not in its smooth condition. Thus, in addition to the normal pleasure derived from grooming such a pile, pleasure is also obtained in revealing otherwise indiscernible marks applied to the pile.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, most of the strands of the pile are of one colour and the or each mark is of at least one other colour. In practice, it has been found convenient to provide a white pile and to apply brightly colour marks to this pile.

The marks are preferably applied to the pile by marking adjacent parts of adjacent strands, without necessarily impregnating the pile so that the whole surface of adjacent strands are marked. This ensures that when the strands are in disarray, prior to grooming of the pile, the shape of the mark is indiscernible.

To enhance this effect, the strands of the pile to which the or each mark is applied should preferably of uniform length of between 6 and 22 mm.

The marks may be in the form of any pictorial representations such as flowers and geometric designs, but are preferably provided in the form of alphabetic letters and/or Arabic numerals so that grooming of the pile to make the shape of these marks discernible will have an educational effect.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the pile is formed from strands of acrylic silver knit fibre and the or each mark is formed by a liquid-based, non-water soluble, non-bleeding marking material such as acrylic lacquer.

The invention also provides a method of making a cuddly toy comprising the steps of cutting at least one panel from a material having a pile which comprises filamentary strands and can be brushed or combed into and out of a groomed condition in

which adjacent strands extend along the panel in the same direction; incorporating the panel in and outer surface of the doll; applying at least one symbolic or pictorial mark to the pile in such a way that the mark is discernible when the pile is in said groomed condition and indiscernible when the pile not in said groomed condition.

The mark is preferably applied by applying a liquid to an area of the pile through an aperture in a stencil.

This can be done before or after the panel is incorporated in the outer surface of the doll.

The liquid is preferably applied in the form of a spray so that small droplets of the liquid are applied to the strands of the pile without impregnating the pile. It is therefore convenient to use an aerosol spray and to apply the sprayed liquid to a panel of material having a pile through the aperture in a stencil. This may take place before or after the panel is incorporated in the surface of the cuddly toy.

A cuddly toy embodying the present invention and its method of manufacture are hereinafter described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings.

90 *Brief description of the drawings*

Figure 1 is a schematic front elevation of a toy teddy bear having a pile in smooth, groomed condition and on which alphabetic letters are marked;

Figure 2 is a firm elevation of the toy teddy bear shown in *Figure 1* in which the pile is no longer in its smooth, groomed condition and the alphabetic letters are no longer discernible.

Figure 3 is a schematic elevational view showing the application of an alphabetic letter to a panel forming part of the surface of the toy teddy bear shown in *Figures 1* and *2*.

Mode for carrying out the invention

Figures 1 and *2* show a toy teddy bear having an outer surface 1 with a pile 2 formed from strands 3 of acrylic silver knit fabric. This pile is capable of being brushed or combed into and out of a smooth, groomed condition and, when in this condition, marks 4 in the form of alphabetic letters are applied to the pile 2, as shown in *Figure 1*.

When the pile 2 is brushed or combed out of its smooth, groomed condition, as shown in *Figure 2*, the alphabetic letters marks 4 are not longer discernible. All that can be seen are smudgy coloured patches 9. Therefore in addition to the pleasure obtained by a child in grooming the toy teddy bear, the child enjoys the further satisfaction of revealing the alphabetic letter marks 4. This is not only pleasureable, but also of educational value, particularly if the alphabetic letter marks 4 are arranged in a logical sequence. Similar considerations apply where the marks 4 are in the form of Arabic numerals.

The marks 4 may be applied to panels 5 forming part of the surface 1 of the toy teddy bear before or after these panels are incorporated into the surface of the toy. This is illustrated in *Figure 3* which shows a panel 5 for one of the legs of the toy teddy bear. In this case, droplets of acrylic lacquer 6 from an air

brush spray are applied to the pile 2 on the panel 5 through an aperture 7 formed in a stencil 8. Use of this "air brush" technique ensures that only parts of adjacent strands 3 of the pile 2 are coloured and that the pile is not fully impregnated with lacquer. This ensures that when the pile 5 is brushed or combed out of its smooth, groomed condition, the marks become completely indiscernible and appear merely as coloured smudges on the surface of the teddy bear.

CLAIMS

1. A cuddly toy having, on at least part of its surface (1), a pile (2) which comprises filamentary strands (3) and can be brushed or combed into and out of a groomed condition in which adjacent strands (3) extend along the surface (1) in the same direction;
- characterised in that:
 - at least one symbolic or pictorial mark (4) is supplied to the pile (2) in such a way that the mark (4) is discernible when the pile (2) is in said groomed condition and is not discernible when the pile (2) is not in said groomed condition.
2. A cuddly toy, according to Claim 1, in which most of the strands (3) of the pile (2) are of one colour and the or each mark (4) is of at least one other colour.
3. A cuddly toy, according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, in which the or each mark (4) is supplied to the pile (2) by marking adjacent parts of adjacent strands (3).
4. A cuddly toy, according to any preceding claim, in which the strand (3) of the pile (2) to which the or each mark (4) is supplied are of uniform length of between 6 and 22 mm.
5. A cuddly, according to any preceding claim, in which the pile (2) is formed from strands (3) of acrylic sliver knit fibre and the or each mark (4) is formed by a liquid-based marking material.
6. A cuddly toy, according to any preceding claim, in which there are a plurality of marks (4) in the form of alphabetic letters and/or Arabic numerals.
7. A method of making a cuddly toy comprising the steps of:-
 - providing at least one panel (5) from a material having a pile (2) which comprises filamentary strands (3) and can be brushed or combed into and out of a groomed condition in which adjacent strands (3) extend along the panel (5) in the same direction; and
 - incorporating the panel (5) an outer surface (1) of the doll;
 - characterised in that:
 - the pile (2) is brushed or combed into the groomed condition and at least one symbolic or pictorial mark (4) is supplied to the pile (2) in such a way that the mark (4) is discernible when the pile (2) is in said groomed condition and is not discernible when the pile (2) is not in said groomed condition.
 8. A method, in which the or each mark (4) is supplied by applying a liquid (6) to an area of the pile (2) through an aperture (7) in a stencil (8).
 9. A method, according to Claim 8, in which the liquid (6) is supplied in the form of spray.

10. A cuddly toy substantiate as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawing.

11. A method of making a cuddly toy substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawing.

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